

camera.

One consideration with such a camera is the ease of loading
of the film, particularly given the requirement that the
5 film must be pre-wound out of the film cassette before use.
In view of the low cost of the camera itself manufacture
and assembly costs are important, and this includes the
cost of loading the film into the camera at the factory.
It is highly desirable to utilize a method which is simple
10 and cheap and yet reliable.

As the awareness of problems of environmental contamination
increases, as well as for economic reasons, consumers are
less willing to tolerate disposable products. It has
15 previously been proposed by the applicant to provide a very
simple and cheap camera of generally similar construction
to a disposable camera and yet which includes adaptations
allowing it to be re-used at least several times by a user.

20 The present invention seeks to provide a method of loading
a film assembly comprising a pair of film containers for
use in a simple camera as described above.

enclosing the coil in an additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof; (e) removing the film winding tool; and (f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective chambers and closing the camera back.

The film may be conventional colour or black and white film, but may also carry pre-exposed latent images thereon, the method involving at step (f) the additional step of ensuring that an alignment mark on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera so as to ensure correct alignment of user-exposed images and pre-exposed images.

The film assembly may comprise a first film container having a spool therein to which an end of the film is attached, and a second spoolless light-tight film container within which the film is wound having a removable end cap, the film being wound in a coil in the second film container and extending to the first container.

The photographic film-receiving container has a housing comprising a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend. The container may have a

5 The film assembly may comprise a first film container
having a spool therein to which an end of the film is
attached and about which the film may be wound, and a
second spoolless light-tight film container within which
the film may be wound having a removable end cap, the film
extending between the first and second containers and being
wound within one or other of said containers, wherein
securing means are provided to hold the first and second
10 containers in a fixed position relative to each other.

Brief Description of the Drawings

15 Embodiments of the invention are now described, by way of
example only, the reference to the following drawings in
which:

20 Figure 1 shows the insertion of a film assembly in
accordance with an embodiment of the invention into an open
camera;

Figure 2 illustrates the winding of the film out of a first
film cassette or container into a second film container;

Figure 3 shows the fitting of an end cap onto the second
film container;

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